

**REMARKS**

The specification has been amended to conform to US practice.

The claims have been amended to address the 112 rejection, better conform to US practice, and also to better define the claimed invention and better distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art.

With regard specifically to the Examiner's comments regarding the phrase "the denominations of the coins or banknotes ... is determined for each numerical procedure" Applicant notes the intent of the phrase is simply that a denomination of each coin/banknote entered into the vending machine is identified/determined.

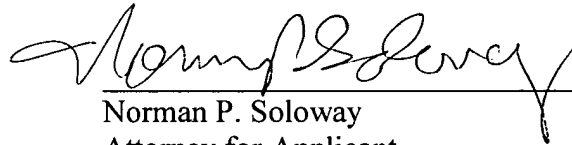
Turning to the rejection of claims 1-27 under 35 USC§103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,356,805 to Fletcher, independent claim 1 requires, in part, generating a signal (F) when a predetermined limit criterion of successive equivalent denomination coins or banknotes is reached, passing the signal (F) to a logic circuit, and at least partially preventing operation of the vending machine for a duration of time. Thus, when a fraudulent manipulation of the vending machine is sensed, the machine is temporarily preventing from operating, thereby to discourage a potential counterfeiter. Fletcher discloses a vending machine tracking coin inventory and determining the denomination of coins inserted therein, but Fletcher does not teach or disclose tracking insertion of successive equivalent denomination coins and preventing operation of the machine when a predetermined criterion is achieved. Similarly, independent claim 4 requires generating a signal (F) when a preset limit criterion of equivalent denomination frequency is reached. Fletcher does not teach or disclose tracking a frequency rate of insertion of equivalent denomination coins or sounding an alarm when a predetermined limit criterion is achieved. Therefore, Fletcher fails to teach or suggest all of the features of

independent claims 1 and 4. Claims 2, 3, and 5-27 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 or 4 as the case may be, and are allowable for the same reasons above adduced, as well as for their own additional limitations.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

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